

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. – 27. (canceled)

28. (new) A method of restricting the annulus of a heart valve, the heart valve having an anterior portion and a posterior portion, the posterior portion defining lateral and central portions, comprising:

limiting expansion of the lateral portions of the posterior portion of the heart valve while leaving the central portion of the posterior portion of the heart valve unrestrained.

29. (new) A method according to claim 28, wherein:

the heart valve is a mitral valve having A, P₁, P₂, and P₃ portions, and the lateral portions are the P₁ and P₃ portions.

30. (new) A method according to claim 29, wherein:

said limiting expansion includes coupling a first device adjacent P₁ and a second device adjacent P₂.

31. (new) A method according to claim 29, wherein:

said limiting expansion includes cinching the lateral posterior portions relative to a device.

32. (new) A method according to claim 29, wherein:

 said limiting expansion includes cinching each of the lateral posterior portions relative to a discrete device.